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United for Quality Care

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SEIU 1199NE  
Teodora Taveras  
Danbury  
Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Teodora Taveras, I live in Danbury, CT, and I have worked as a CNA at the St John Paul nursing home for eight years. I come before you to urge you to fund nursing homes appropriately.

I love the work I do as a CNA because I find it rewarding to care for the elderly. I feel like I am taking care of my own parents. Everyone deserves to live their later years comfortably and I am proud to give that comfort to my residents. With that said I am frustrated by the constant battle we have over staffing. As a staff we are constantly forced to work short. We are overworked and burned out, and turnover is a bigger problem than ever.

Short staffing also results in high stress levels amongst the staff, which negatively impacts the quality of care we can provide residents. We literally don't have the time to give good care; we must rush from one task to the next. It is sad and unacceptable, and most unfair to our residents.

This committee can address the problems in nursing homes with additional funding for these services. With proper levels of funding nursing homes can hire more staff and afford to pay them a living wage, which not only addresses short staffing but also helps homes retain the caregivers they have. This committee can also fund bills like SB 989, which received a public hearing in the Human Services committee and will improve staffing standards in nursing homes.

Residents living in nursing homes deserve the highest quality of care, and their caregivers deserve to work in a safe work environment and to earn a livable wage. With appropriate funding for these services, both are possible. Please fund nursing homes.

Thank you.